

The post assembly tour concluded with visits to the historic Black Sea ports of Sozopol and Nessebur. There, we observed the overlays of culture heritage from Greek colonial times to 19th-century architecture. We saw how the local residents and officials treat and interpreted this heritage. The local conservation architects pointed out the relationship between recreational tourism of the many Eastern European (and more recently Western European) Black Sea sun bathers with cultural tourism. These differing types of tourism bring pressures onto each other.

The General Assembly included the tasks of election of officers and the adoption of resolutions.

The assembly elected the ICOMOS officers and Executive Committee for the 1996-1999 triennium. ICOMOS President Roland Silva (Sri Lanka) and Treasurer General Jan Jessurun (Netherlands) both won third terms. Jean-Louis Luxen (Belgium) won election to a second term as Secretary General. The assembly elected Ann Webster Smith (USA) to one of five vice presidential posts, along with Mamadou Berthe (Senegal) Esteban Prieto (Dominican Republic), Joseph Phares (Lebanon), and Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard (France).

Participants in the General Assembly adopted several resolutions. One resolution called on ICOMOS to develop explicit English, French, and Spanish definitions for the terms regarding the protection of the cultural heritage. The Assembly adopted another resolution calling for a revision of the *Charter on Cultural Tourism*. Several resolutions addressed concerns about threats to the heritage in specific regions. One resolution counseled the Bulgarian government to ensure the preservation of the heritage, whatever its ownership. Another resolution expressed concern about the situation at the Russian World Heritage site of Kizhi Pogost. The recent interference with the Titanic grave site and the commercial exploitation planned under that venture received strong condemnation.

Through meetings and interacting with conservation colleagues I learned of their experiences. I listened to discussion about problems and their solutions ranging from city zoning policies, funding of site maintenance to development of cultural tourism for diversifying local economies. Participation in gatherings such as the 11th General Assembly of ICOMOS promotes NPS's leadership role in the management of cultural resources. The Albright-Wirth employee development fund provided crucial support to my participation in the assembly.

Paul Cloyd is a historical architect with the National Park Service, Denver Service Center-Architecture. His interest in the international view on cultural resources began with his 1982-84 Peace Corps service.

Phyllis Ewing

Colonial Williamsburg A Seminar for Historic Administration

The course titles were subjects like Preservation, Leadership and Management, Building Public Support, Researching a Changing Past, Interpretation and Exhibits, Ethics, Personnel and Fundraising.

The speaker list included Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Director of the Virginia Historical Society; Frank Sanchis, VP of Stewardship of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Rex Ellis, Executive Director of the Center for Museum Studies, The Smithsonian; our own National Park Service Chief Historian, Dwight Pitcaithley, and other equally-successful members of the profession.

The 18 class members represented many positions, such as directors, educators, curators, interpreters, and an archeologist who were from all types of institutions—big and little, private and public—which focused on history, children, cultures, homes, collections, landscapes, and even an 18th-century reproduction functioning ship.

The place for all this was three weeks in Colonial Williamsburg and other museums and historical sites in the area. What more could you ask!

Change for Survival was for me the overall theme which ran through the sessions of the Seminar For Historic Administration. In this time of cutbacks and downsizing, and with so many places for people to spend their leisure time and money, we must adapt in order to survive. As part of every session, suggestions were made not only on what to change and how to make the changes while dealing with these situations, but also how to have a better institution or park after the change.

Knowing our need for and desire to have new and returning park visitors, and aware we have less staff to assist them and fewer dollars for programming, we all acknowledge change is the only option. Each session presented a different aspect of these issues with three speakers who had expertise in that area. To best describe their knowledge and excellence in relaying information, many were asked to join us for lunch so the discussion and sharing of ideas could continue.

Field trips were an important ingredient and emphasized the concept that stronger relationships come with better understanding. At the Virginia Historical Society, we saw the results of a complete institutional transformation, from basically a scholarly research repository with no interest in outreach to an important center for the people of the

community and state. This was accomplished by the director working closely with board members and friends groups until they had a clear understanding about the change at the institution. At Jamestown Settlement we saw the positive results of their new outreach program, giving schools and teachers the opportunity to be involved during the planning and development stage of lesson plans.

Our classroom for the Seminar for Historic Administration was Colonial Williamsburg and we were allowed to use it as our laboratory. We could listen to their programs, for us mostly evening presentations; we were invited and encouraged to take advantage of their staff and their knowledge, which many of us did. One session focused on the importance of knowing what the visitors expected when at a historical site. We practiced the technique and process of using surveys to find out the information on the Colonial Williamsburg visitors. Our assignment was to interview visitors after they had witnessed or interacted with one of Colonial Williamsburg presentations. The opportunity to do it first-hand was extremely valuable and the information we received from the visitors validated what all the speakers had been telling us in class. The exercise taught us the general population has an increased interest in vernacular history, in presentations which they can personally relate to and which produce an emotional experience, the critical importance of material and programs interesting to children with the idea "if the children are having a good time so are the parents", and object-based learning, which uses the museum collection more effectively to tell the stories.

As with any gathering of this type, the diversity of the institutions and the different expertise of the participants set the stage for knowledge and information exchange, and great brain storming opportunities. While everyone believes their situation is completely different from all others, I feel comfortable in saying there was not a person there who did not learn something from the group and there was not a session in which a useful tool was not presented.

The Seminar's format was simply suggestions on how to do what I had heard the Northeast Regional Director, Ms. Marie Rust say many times, "Work smarter not harder!" This was accomplished with timely subjects, great speakers, bright and creative participants, and an interesting place to do it. As I said before, "What more could you ask!"

Phyllis Ewing is the curator at Martin Van Buren National Historic Site and Saratoga National Historical Park, P.O. Box 545, Kinderhook, NY 12106; 518-758-9689.

Lisa M. Garvin

Colonial Williamsburg A Diary

Our seminar group has only been together for a few days and we are already becoming accustomed to traveling back and forth between the 18th and 20th century. Meeting Thomas Jefferson or Martha Washington walking along the streets of Colonial Williamsburg is always a possibility. The daily lives of the famous as well as the local townspeople of Williamsburg are a part of the story told through the outstanding first person interpretive programs here at Colonial Williamsburg.

Interpretive themes, taken from information in the planning document entitled, "Becoming Americans: Our Struggle To Be Both Free and Equal," guide the interpretive operations in the historic district through the implementation of six storylines. As each new storyline is added, over the next few years, visitors continue to interact with the interpreters and thereby learn about the lives of real people living in colonial Virginia: their attitudes, dreams, goals, and thoughts on the eve of the American Revolution.

Our class, made up of 18 participants and our coordinator Polly Jontz, have come from a variety of different parks, museums, and historic sites to participate in a training class entitled, "The 38th Annual Seminar For Historical Administration (SHA)." Today, our first day in class, we were welcomed by CEO and President of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Robert Wilburn.

Each day for the next three weeks we will attend morning and afternoon classes taught by nationally-known speakers. Several evening interpretive presentations on topics as diverse as the types of music and dance in colonial days, the courtroom procedures at witchcraft trials, and the role and implications of slavery in Virginia are also available for seminar participants to attend. Tomorrow night, fellow seminar participants Ann Korzeniewski, William Hiott, and I will attend one such program, "Cry Witch." This program recreates events at the witchcraft trial of Grace Sherwood.

During our seminar we are staying at the Governor's Inn, one of several hotels and facilities operated by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF). A conference room and hospitality room are available for our use, and bus service to and from the historic district is available each day.